

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 2-8, 10-13, 15-18, and 22-33 are allowed as the prior art does not teach or suggest the applicant's invention. Claims 5, 12, 23, and 25-28 teach a method and apparatus for a hard disk drive. Regarding claim 5, the distinguishing elements of the claim teaches sending a request command for a growth program to an optimized hard disk drive on which at least one instruction of the growth program has at least been executed by a processor of the optimized hard disk drive, wherein the growth program contains instructions for performing at least one process of a writing process of writing servo information onto a disk of the hard disk drive, a pretest process that optimizes parameters of servo systems and/or channel systems of the hard disk drive, and a verification test process that verifies whether the optimized parameters provide design values for operation of the hard disk drive; a ROM that stores a basic program that receives the growth program; a MPU for receiving the growth program according to the basic program stored in the ROM, and performing the instructions of the received growth program; and a connector for connecting to a non-optimized hard disk drive that has a disk that has not been optimized and for transmitting the growth program to the non-optimized hard disk drive. Regarding claim 12, the distinguishing elements of the claim teaches completing an optimization processing of the first hard drive with information used for optimization, wherein the optimization processing includes optimizing parameters of servo systems and/or channel systems of the first hard drive; supplying the information used for optimization, which is included in the first hard disk

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drive, from the first hard disk drive to the second hard disk drive; and controlling, according to the supplied information used for optimization, the second hard disk drive to execute processes so as to mature into an optimized hard disk drive. Regarding claim 23, the distinguishing elements of the claim teaches receiving, at the hard disk drive from another hard disk drive in which a optimization/inspection process has only been partially completed, a request for a growth program by which the another hard disk drive executes the optimization/inspection process by itself, wherein the growth program contains instructions for performing at least one process of a writing process of writing servo information onto a disk of the hard disk drive, a pretest process that optimizes parameters of servo systems and/or channel systems of the hard disk drive, and a verification test process that verifies whether the optimized parameters provide design values for operation of the hard disk drive; reading out the growth program stored in a memory of the hard disk drive; and supplying the another hard disk drive with the growth program read out. Regarding claim 25, the distinguishing elements of the claim teaches writing servo information to a disk of the hard disk drive by use of information exported from another hard disk drive; executing an inspection process on the hard disk drive by use of the information exported from the another hard disk drive, wherein the inspection process involves reading out the servo information written to the disk of the hard disk; and exporting information to a third hard disk drive for the third disk drive to execute an inspection process. Regarding claim 26, the distinguishing elements of the claim teaches recognizing means used for recognizing that an optimization/inspection process to be performed on the hard disk device has not yet been completed; growth-

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program receiving means, based on the recognition of the recognizing means, for receiving from a parent hard disk drive connected to the hard disk drive a growth program necessary for performing the optimization/inspection process on the hard disk drive itself, wherein the growth program contains instructions for performing at least one process of a writing process of writing servo information onto a disk of the hard disk drive, a pretest process that optimizes parameters of servo systems and/or channel systems of the hard disk drive, and a verification test process that verifies whether the optimized parameters provide design values for operation of the hard disk drive; and execution means, based on the growth program received by the growth-program receiving means, for executing the optimization/inspection process on the hard disk drive itself, wherein the recognizing means checks one or more values stored in an EEPROM of the hard disk drive to recognize that an optimization/inspection process to be performed on the hard disk device has not yet been completed. Regarding claim 27, the distinguishing elements of the claim teaches recognizing that an optimization/inspection process to be performed on the hard disk drive has not yet been completed; requesting, based on the recognition, another hard disk drive to supply a growth program that is required to perform the optimization/inspection process by the hard disk drive itself, wherein the growth program contains instructions for performing at least one process of a writing process of writing servo information onto a disk of the hard disk drive, a pretest process that optimizes parameters of servo systems and/or channel systems of the hard disk drive, and a verification test process that verifies whether the optimized parameters provide design values for operation of the hard disk

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drive; and receiving, based on the request, the growth program supplied from said another hard disk drive, wherein the optimization/inspection process is such that it is required to be executed prior to writing any user data to magnetic disks of the hard disk drive. Regarding claim 28, the distinguishing elements of the claim teaches 28 connection means adapted to be connected to an unfinished hard disk drive where servo information is not written to a disk of the unfinished hard disk drive; storing means for storing a first program by which the unfinished hard disk drive writes servo information to at least one disk of the unfinished hard disk drive and by which the hard disk drive writes servo information to at least one disk of the hard disk drive; supplying means for supplying the unfinished hard disk drive with the first program stored in the storing means; and requesting means for sending a request command for the first program from a finished hard disk drive where servo information has been written to at least one disk of the finished hard disk drive.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON C. OLSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7560. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 7:30-5:30; alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (571)272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jason C Olson/

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